

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of the subject application. Claims 1-28 and 37-44 are canceled without prejudice. Claims 29-36 are pending in this application.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 29-36 stand allowed. As part of this response, claims 1-28 and 37-44 are canceled without prejudice. Accordingly, all pending claims stand allowed.

The Specification

The specification has been amended to include the serial number of a referenced case. Applicant submits that no new matter has been added to the specification.

35 U.S.C. § 102

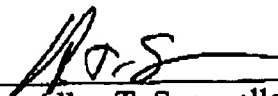
Claims 1-28 and 37-44 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,577,734 to Etzel et al. (hereinafter "Etzel"). Although Applicant disagrees with the rejection of claims 1-28 and 37-44, and respectfully submits that claims 1-28 and 37-44 are allowable over Etzel, claims 1-28 and 37-44 have been canceled in order to expedite issuance of the allowed claims 29-36. This cancellation of claims 1-28 and 37-44 is not intended to be, and is not to be interpreted as, an admission that Applicant agrees with the rejection of claims 1-28 and 37-44. Applicant reserves the right to pursue claims 1-28 and 37-44 in one or more continuation applications.

Conclusion

Claims 29-36 are in condition for allowance. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and issuance of the subject application. Should any matter in this case remain unresolved, the undersigned attorney respectfully requests a telephone conference with the Examiner to resolve any such outstanding matter.

Respectfully Submitted,

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By: 
Allan T. Sponseller
Reg. No. 38,318
(509) 324-9256